

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-02 /062 W

-----180603Z 121834 /21

R 172127Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2421

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERS ARMY CHANGE OF COMMAND - FAVORABLY

1. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16, U.S. ARMY 193RD INFANTRY BRIGADE (CANAL ZONE) HELD CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY AT ALBROOK AFB; BRIG. GEN. RICHARD ANSON REPLACED MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM RICHARDSON AS BRIGADE COMMANDER.

2. CEREMONY RECEIVED REMARKABLY FAVORABLE COVERAGE FROM LOCAL MEDIA. MOST UNUSUAL POINT WAS THAT CEREMONY WAS MORE PROMINENT IN GOP-GUIDED MEDIA THAN IN SEMI-INDEPENDENT PAPERS FOR MORNING OF JUNE 17.

3. "STAR AND HERALD" RAN MILITARY PRESS RELEASE ON BACK PAGE WITH NO PICTURE. "ESTRELLA" CARRIED SAME RELEASE AND USED U.S. ARMY PHOTO OF CEREMONY. BUT SAME PHOTO AND RELEASE WERE LEAD ITEM IN GOP-GUIDED "MATUTINO". "CRITICA" SENT ITS OWN REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER IT, AND GAVE HIS PHOTO OF GENERALS MCAULIFFE, RICHARDSON AND ANSON A PROMINENT PLACE ON ITS FRONT PAGE WITHOUT ANY OF ITS USUAL SNIDE COMMENTARY ABOUT US MILITARY IN CANAL ZONE.

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4. ITS WRITE-UP OF THE EVENT WAS BURIED IN A CATCHALL ARTICLE LED BY ANTI-TREATY ACTIVITIES IN US. TEXT APPEARED UNDER SUBHEAD "MCAULIFFE IN AGREEMENT WITH ADJUSTMENTS" AND PRINTED IN CAPITALS LETTERS, THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM CINC'S STATEMENTS: GENERAL ANSON'S "...PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE WILL BE PARTICULARLY BENEFICIAL IN CARRYING FORWARD THE PROUD

TRADITION OF THE BRIGADE, IN MAINTAINING THE IMPORTANT
MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND
IN MAKING SUCH FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS HERE AS MAY BE NECESSITATED BY
A NEW CANAL TREATY."

4. COMMENT: NORMALLY, THE GOP-GUIDED PRESS TREATS THE US
MILITARY IN THE CANAL ZONE AS A WAR ON THE BODY POLITIC
(AS OPPOSED TO THE CANCER WHICH IS "THE ZONIANS"). EVEN-HANDED
COVERAGE, E.G., USE OF THE MILITARY'S OWN RELEASES WITHOUT
DISTORTION OR SNIDE COMMENT, IS THE EXCEPTION, THOUGH NOT
UNPRECEDENTED.
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY CEREMONIES, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, MILI, PN, PQ, (ANSON, RICHARD), (RICHARDSON, WILLIAM)
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